

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheets make changes to Figs. 2-5 and replace the original sheets with Figs. 1-6.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 and Figs. 2-5 are amended as requested during the personal interview. Claim 11 is added. No new matter is added.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiners Momper and King at the interview held May 5, 2009, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The January 26, 2009 Office Action objects to the disclosure for informalities; and rejects claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. As agreed during the personal interview, the amendments to Fig. 1 and claim 5 provided in the April 27, 2009 Amendment, overcome the objection and rejection, respectively. Withdrawal of the objection and rejection is thus respectfully requested.

The January 26, 2009 Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0029669 to Phely; rejects claims 1, 2, 4, 7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,624,338 to Kawashima et al.; rejects claims 3, 4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kawashima; and claims 5, 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kawashima in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,555,241 to Takano et al. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the interview, Phely and Kawashima do not disclose or render obvious a press belt having an orientation of yarns, as recited in claim 1. Further, Takano does not remedy the above-described deficiencies. Takano also does not disclose yarns of the claimed orientation.

Thus, as agreed during the personal interview, claim 1 is patentable over the applied references. Further, claims 2-10, which depend from claim 1, are also patentable over the

applied references for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejections is thus respectfully requested.

Further, claim 11, which depends from claim 1, is also patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features it recites.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:RBI/hjr

Attachments:

Replacement Sheets (Figs. 1-6)

Date: June 5, 2009

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